

Winter 2009

Volume 29, #2

# TreeHouse Droppings



CYCLOPS, the 7 year-old Red-tailed Hawk,  
was elected **RESIDENT PRESIDENT FOR 2010**

30 years of giving back to the wild

### **Volunteer Staff**

Judy Neiman, Clinic Coordinator  
Dr. Paul Myer, Veterinarian  
Melvin McCann, Maintenance Super.  
Deana Browne, Fundraising  
Adele Moore, Newsletter Editor  
Martha Edwards, Web Master

### **Board of Directors**

Lynn Schreiber, President  
Pam Lippert, Vice-President  
Andrea Crabtree, Secretary  
Adele Moore, Treasurer  
Judy Neiman  
Melvin McCann  
Marti Stone  
Paul Myer, DVM  
Eric Bloemker  
Kathy Border  
Sherri Medley

**All photos by Adele Moore,  
unless otherwise noted.**

### **TreeHouse Staff \***

Pam Lippert, Clinic Supervisor

\*TreeHouse Wildlife Center has  
one full-time staff member  
paid through a grant.  
All other staff are volunteers.

### **Volunteers**

Judy & Jack Neiman, Deana Browne,  
Lois & Christy DuMey,  
Melvin McCann, Kathy Conley,  
Bud Grzeskowiak, Penny Moon,  
Marti & Don Stone, Phil Challandes,  
Stephanie Bland, Brian Willis,  
Sandie Konopelski, Penny Sarandis,  
Brad Blumenstock, Dillon Dean,  
Drs. Craig & Kim Staehle,  
Rick & Karle Bohn, Brianna Harbison,  
Kelly & Hank Jones, Sue Potter,  
Sherri Naughton

If you have a few hours a week to spare,  
and you would like to  
become a volunteer,  
please contact TreeHouse  
for more information.  
(The only requirement is that you are  
at least 16 years of age,  
unless accompanied by an adult)

For more information:  
**(618) 372-8092**

**TreeHouse Wildlife Center, Inc.**  
**1825 Fosterburg Road**  
**Brighton, Illinois 62012**

**[www.treehousewildlifecenter.com](http://www.treehousewildlifecenter.com)**

## TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER LITE – 2010

TreeHouse Wildlife Center will undergo reorganization next year, but will remain open on a limited basis in 2010. First of all the TreeHouse current lease will be extended through 2010, *with stipulations*. We are currently following up on several fresh opportunities concerning funds for a new building, and feel we need additional time to check those out.

### **As of 2010:**

TreeHouse will discontinue tours and the fall open house, but we will continue with outreach programs and booths. The reason for this change is the fact that my husband and I are building our retirement home on the TreeHouse property we own, and need to decrease foot traffic as much as possible to retain a little privacy.

TreeHouse will *only* be accepting waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans, herons, egrets and pelicans), and raptors (eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, and vultures). TreeHouse has handled almost 3,600 raptors over the past 30 years, so our plate will still remain quite full.

Mammals will not be accepted at this time until further notice. These changes are a result of the rapidly deteriorating state of the current hospital building, the increase in the number of animals admitted, and rising operational costs. Our payroll grant was reduced this year so we've had to cut staff down from one full-time, and two part-time employees to just one full-time person. Additionally, even our down-sized payroll grant may be in jeopardy for 2010.

If you encounter a wild mammal who is orphaned or injured, please call another area licensed wildlife rehabilitator. For a list of rehabilitators, call the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Region IV office at 618-462-1181; or check their web site at: [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us). Click on the Law Enforcement link, go to the bottom of the page and click on Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators, which are listed by county.

We must emphasize that *TreeHouse will be open in 2010* with quality care for raptors and waterfowl, as well as updates for our members through our semi-annual newsletter, *TreeHouse Droppings*.

Thank you for your support for these past 30 years. It was only through your donations that have kept us operational, and will keep us going, for 2010 and beyond.

Adele Moore, Co-founder  
TreeHouse Wildlife Center

**FROM THE PRESIDENT** by Lynn Schreiber  
Into the New Year, A Request for Help

It has been five years since TreeHouse began its quest to find a new home. Despite the chaos associated with seeking funding opportunities, promoting media coverage and doing fundraisers, TreeHouse itself remains a constant. The center strives to fulfill its mission to rehabilitate orphaned and injured wildlife and to educate the public, and animals continue to come and go, oblivious to the center's current situation and the struggles that it faces to just stay open. Throughout this time the TreeHouse board has persevered, maintaining stability and strength through hard times. A strong dynamic exists that keeps the board dedicated and focused toward its goals for the future despite the challenges that still lie ahead.

Many non-profits like TreeHouse operate primarily through the selfless efforts of its volunteers. It takes a certain combination of people with different resources and abilities to successfully operate a non-profit and flexibility is essential in coordinating those resources. Such organizations benefit from occasional changes to its personnel to incorporate fresh experience and new ideas.

While TreeHouse itself remains a constant the TreeHouse family has seen many transitions throughout the years as volunteer participation fluctuates in response to the ongoing experiences in their lives apart from TreeHouse. Members of the TreeHouse community have experienced the loss of loved ones, and rejoiced in the birth of others. They have faced personal challenges unique to each and have found joy in celebrations of graduations, weddings and other achievements and milestones. Some have expanded their potential to include jobs in addition to TreeHouse, others have relocated to new homes.

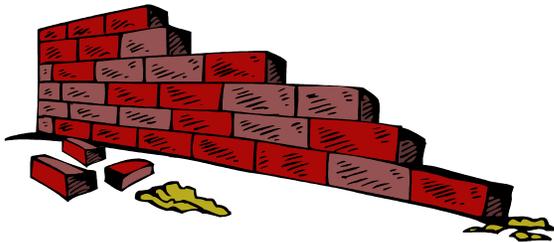
In response to changes that have occurred in recent years the board is asking for help from its members in a number of areas in order to best address the immediate needs of the center's administration. We are currently in need of those who have experience in grant writing, public relations, and marketing. We need people who can help us make connections and forge relationships that can lead to better partnerships in the future. Those who would like to help should contact TreeHouse at: [treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com](mailto:treehousewildlifecenter@gmail.com).

**SHORT TAILS** by Judy Neiman**HEAD FIRST**

Dinner was over and the dishes were done. The dogs were fed and walked. I was watching my favorite comedy *Two and Half Men*. I really did not want to be disturbed as I enjoyed the show. However, we got a call about a man who had struck an owl with his car. The owl was now stuck head first in the grill of the car. Okay. Sounds like an emergency. I'll catch the reruns later. It was not far away so we got there very quickly. How the owl was still alive I do not know. I grabbed his talons and pulled on his head but it would not budge. I asked Jack and the driver to simultaneously lift the grill on both sides of the owl. His head popped out, and he looked around like what the #%\$& happened. I took him to TreeHouse where he is doing well with no broken bones.



We hope to release him/her back into the wild after some flight training.

**BRICK YARD FRUSTRATION**

We went on a call about a hawk caught in a brick yard warehouse. They said he had been sitting on the rafters all day and would not come down. There usually isn't much hope of getting them to come down and fly out the door. We took an 18' net, which Jack shoved close to the bird, but the hawk just flew to another rafter. Another poke and he flew to the floor, whereby he quickly ran in and out of the warehouse paraphernalia. We finally found him under a low lying oil tank. He was injured so he couldn't fly very far, so he ran out of the building and in between 20' high piles of brick that were only about a foot or two apart. We could barely see him much less get between the bricks to catch him. The far end was blocked off and he couldn't come out except the way he went in. We waited a very long time for him to come out but it never happened. Sometimes recues are frustrating and unsuccessful, and we left disappointed that we were unable to help him.



A Concert for TreeHouse turned out to be a wonderful event.  
We would like to thank:

Erin Schreiber, violinist  
Martin Kennedy, pianist

Thank You

Pat Partridge,  
Organist/Choirmaster

Clergy and staff of  
Christ Church Cathedral.  
St. Louis, MO

TreeHouse staff,  
volunteers,  
friends  
& family

Concert Sponsors

Renee Hirshfield,  
RPH Communications, LLC,  
Advertising and Marketing

Mark & Terri Darr, Wine

Frankie Peltiere, Festive Atmospheres,  
Floral Arrangement

ConocoPhillips, Wood River Refinery,  
Programs  
Don & Marti Stone,  
Programs



Missy Rung with Great horned Owl  
Photo by Lynn Schreiber

Missy Rung, is a faithful supporter of TreeHouse, and responsible for opening, and maintaining a TreeHouse FACEBOOK account. Missy was the winner of a silent auction at the **Concert for Wildlife** fundraiser event this past summer and won the opportunity to release a Great Horned Owl at Pere Marquette State Park in November. The release was a success and a small group watched as the owl went from tree to tree before soaring high above over the bluffs.

## ADOPTIONS

Gary & Juliana Giuka adopted Mocha the Short-eared Owl.

Cub Scout Pack 53, Worden, adopted McGwire the Bald Eagle.

Joyce Kellogg, Maroa, adopted an orphaned squirrel.

“Boomer” the Barred Owl receives a blessing from Canon John Kilgore during the Feast of St. Francis, Blessing of the Animals at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis.



Photo by Timothy K. Hamilton

## REHAB RAMBLINGS by Pam Lippert

Orphaned raptor admissions since the last newsletter are: Six Great Horned Owls, two Barred Owls, four Screech Owls and five Kestrels. All of these birds were banded (by Tom May of New Athens) and released.

In addition, seven orphaned Barn Owls were admitted this year. These birds came from four different nests, so it's very encouraging to see that these Illinois State endangered species are starting to reproduce again in Illinois. Several came from a grain elevator, one each from a tree cavity, a silo, and a shed.



We have admitted several injured Barred Owls lately, most from collisions with vehicles — a couple under unusual circumstances. One flew through the open back window of a pickup truck, and crashing into the rearview mirror. This bird has since recovered and been released. Another flew into the side mirror of a car, then into the open window, falling into the driver's lap. This bird has not yet been released.



This bird appeared to be checking out field guides, along with the volunteers who were trying to identify what subspecies of juvenile falcon we had. Tundra Peregrines are an Artic subspecies — the palest and smallest of the other two subspecies — the Anatum and Peale's Peregrines..

A fracture near the elbow joint caused by a collision near a West Alton field has rendered this bird unreleasable. We are hoping to add him to our educational outreach programs.

*Rehab Ramblings continued*

Some notes on animals from the last newsletter: The young Gray Fox is now a permanent resident due to nerve damage.

The Bald Eagle, with the fractured humerus from Anderson Lake, injured its metacarpal (wrist) joint, making it unreleasable. It is now a resident of the zoo in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

The Peregrine Falcon admitted in the spring from South Roxana is still here and it's disposition is still pending.

A Saw-whet Owl passed through our center after colliding with a window. Fortunately he was uninjured, and was released after a brief period of observation and release training.

Saw-whets are smaller than Screech Owls, and are an uncommon to rare migrant and winter resident in Illinois.

In 30 years, TreeHouse has admitted a total of six Saw-whets, in 1981, '84, '87, '88, '95 and 2009. The owl we received in 1987 arrived in July as an injured juvenile. Saw-whets eat small rodents and birds.



An injured Saw whet Owl inspired one of my mentors to put pen to paper and write about the perils wildlife face in our world today:

A Saw-whet Owl is such a tiny morsel (just 65 grams) he is a sobering reminder of the thousands of wild lives, their brief beauty unseen, their perfection of form and function obliterated in a moment along our highways and against our towers, masts and high wires.

In the sadness of holding the broken bodies and of admitting the lost and bewildered wild things, trying to live by ancestral rules that don't work anymore, in a world gone mad, I find myself asking the unanswerable question:

How long can wildlife populations sustain this attrition?

Katherine McKeever

The Owl Foundation News, January 2002

## 27th Annual Open House — 2009

### THANK YOU

To those who donated raffle prizes

Eric Bloemker

Wild Birds Unlimited

Cheryl Pride

Linda Whittingham

Laura & Randy Whetstone

The Piasa Mint

Eldon & Ruth Grove

Donna Tomberello

Kelly Stone

Jim Moore

Granite City High School Science  
Club

Dr. Karin Crocker

Dr. Jennifer Davis

TreeHouse Volunteers

Jack Neiman

Julie Keffer

Nancy Sabaj

Brighton Farm Hands 4-H

Ron Stroheck

Alex Conley

Brian Willis



Volunteer, Brianna showing off  
Lucy the Kestrel

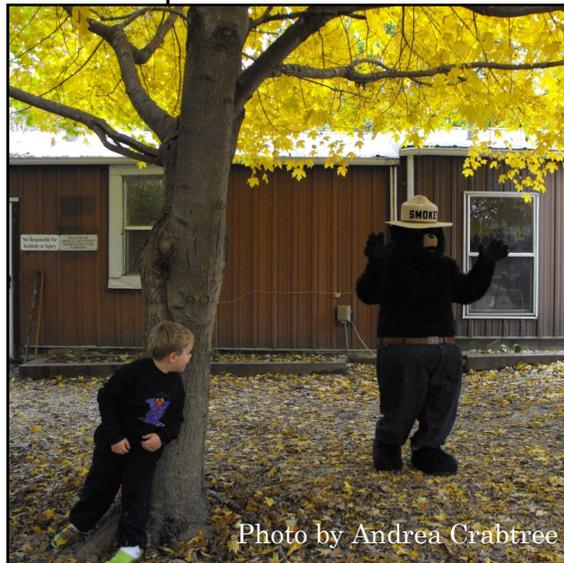


Photo by Andrea Crabtree

Smokey Bear is unaware of what's  
about to happen. Ambushed!



Straw Pile!



Volunteer Brad with  
Capuccino the Barn Owl

### OPEN HOUSE RAFFLE

**Wildlife Quilt** quilted and donated by **Deana Browne** of White City,  
won by **Sarah Friedrich** of East Alton

**Framed Fawn Print** donated by **Adele Moore** of Collinsville,  
won by **Michele Kasten** of O'Fallon

**Bluebird House** donated by **Riverbend Wild Bird Supply**, Alton,  
won by **Sally Richardson** of Jerseyville

**Boy's BMX Bike** donated by **Breese Bikes** of Pontoon Beach,  
won by **Norma Tuscany** of Brighton

**Eagle Chainsaw Sculpture**  
donated by **Dave Dunham** of **Out of the Blue** in Brighton,  
won by **Chris Zerwas** of Alton

**Framed Barn Owl Photo** taken by Sandra Samojeden,  
donated by **Carol Mercer** of Marissa,  
won by **Carla Craig** of Alton

**Fawn Table** painted and donated by **Sally Joosten** of Woodstock,  
won by **Mary Myer** of Bethalto

**Thanks to everyone that helped make this Open House  
one of our most successful!**

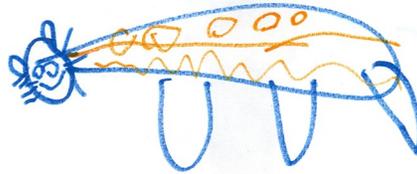
## 27th Annual Open House — 2009

Kids were asked to draw their favorite animals at our recent Open House. Here are some examples.



Bobcat drawing by Ethan White, age 2

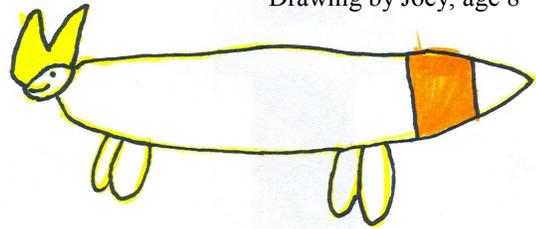
**Open House observations:**  
Batman was seen bringing in an injured squirrel.  
(Open House was held the weekend before Halloween.)



Bobcat drawing by David Bruce, age 5

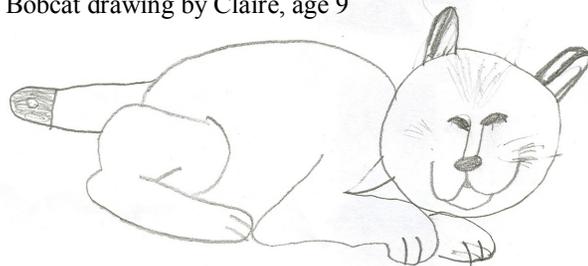
At Dr. Myer's Stuffed Animal Clinic a 2 or 3 year-old girl was heard saying in a very clear voice, "thank you, soo much doctor for looking at my stuffed animal. I think she feels better already!"

Drawing by Joey, age 8



Coyote drawing by Katelyn

Bobcat drawing by Claire, age 9



### SCENES FROM AROUND THE CENTER



You never know what type of “container” our wildlife patients might come in. Two orphaned possums arrived in a fast food hamburger box!

Speaking of possums, this permanent resident has a face only a mother could love. “Marcel” and his fellow permanent resident love to sack out together — even to the point of trying unsuccessfully to both squeeze their entire bodies into an old squirrel nest box.



Three’s Company with permanent resident, “McGwire”, who rooms with our two Bald Eagle gals, Kohoutek and Spuds. TreeHouse obtained the one-year-old Mac in 1998 from Fosterburg, after a collision with a power line.

**Granite City High School Science Club** members participate in a recent work day at TreeHouse.



## In Memory of Sigrid Ueblacker, Founder and Executive Director of the Birds of Prey Foundation

Unexpected deaths are a shock to a person's system that's already overloaded with grief. I've been there. It's been hard to wrap my brain around Sigrid Ueblacker's passing, and I can't imagine what her family, and raptor center staff are experiencing.

My friend, Sally Joosten and myself, were lucky to have two mentors such as Sigrid and Kay KcKeever, but were (and are in Kay's case) privileged to call them both friends. Anytime Sally and I could talk either one of these women into coming to a National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association conference, we made sure to find time for them to speak at our workshop. We loved the opportunity to introduce beginners to *our* mentors in the field.

Sigrid was one of those people that "had that special connection with animals". Over the years people have told me of their special "gift" with animals, but for the most part I find that to be a rare gift, one that both Sigrid and Kay possess. In fact, Sigrid, more often than not, handled her birds with bare hands – something we had to remember to caution beginning rehabilitators not to emulate!

Born and raised in Vienna, Austria and living in Colorado, Sigrid's Birds of Prey Foundation stands as a beautiful tribute to her vision and hard work. Whenever I called to pick her brain regarding a bird TreeHouse admitted, we would eventually end up talking about the trials and tribulations of running a non-profit organization. I have no doubt that the Birds of Prey Foundation will continue on in Sigrid's spirit. She was an excellent teacher, mentor and friend, and the wildlife rehabilitation community will miss her.

Adele Moore



Sigrid Ueblacker (with gloves!)  
photo by Adele Moore

## IN MEMORY OF JERRY McINTYRE

The TreeHouse community deeply regrets the passing of Contractor, Jerry McIntyre earlier this fall. Jerry was very supportive of TreeHouse and agreed early on to become our General Contractor. Jerry was instrumental in helping develop the floor plan for the new center. He was patient and tolerant through the development stages of our project, and was always available, accommodating, and flexible with regard to our vision. Jerry's son, Ross has graciously agreed to continue his father's relationship with TreeHouse.

## IN HONOR OF

Adele Moore  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Myer

## IN MEMORY OF

Kay Massey  
Delmar Sexton  
Joseph F. Doyle  
Martha Phillips  
Jeff Keffer, volunteer  
Marge Miller, volunteer  
Virginia (Jean) Donofrio

## THANK YOU

Melissa Rung  
Tina McElhattan  
The Chaney Family  
Helga & John Solich  
Pen & Carl DauBach  
Larry & Susan Yager  
Tom & Michele Kasten  
Nan and R. Neil Adams  
Jack & Carolyn McCann  
The Grainger Foundation  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
ConocoPhillips, Wood River Refinery

Check out  
**HAPPY TAILS  
THRIFT SHOP**  
IN  
**EDWARDSVILLE**

## TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER MEMBERSHIP

TreeHouse receives **NO** state, federal or county funding.  
Our only funding comes through you, the concerned public.

One way of helping TreeHouse operate is through purchasing a membership.  
You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped us  
give something back to the wild.

**TreeHouse Membership** fee consists of a minimum donation of **\$15.00** annually.  
**Lifetime TreeHouse Membership** fee consists of a **one-time** minimum donation of **\$1,000.00**.

TreeHouse is registered as a non-profit corporation 501 C (3).

All contributions are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to **TreeHouse Wildlife Center**.

**(Any Boeing employee who contributes to the Employee Charity Fund  
can now designate TreeHouse as the specific recipient of donations.)**

- I would like to **renew** my membership to Treehouse Wildlife Inc.  
(A renewal sticker will appear when your membership fee is due.)
- I would like to **become** a member of TreeHouse.
- I would like to make an **additional contribution** to TreeHouse.
- I would like to make a **donation** to the **TreeHouse Building Fund**.

**Please check the appropriate box and mail this form with your donation.**

\$15.00    \$25.00    \$50.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

- I would like information on becoming a **volunteer**.
- I would like information on **volunteering to staff a TreeHouse booth at fundraisers**

Send to:

**TreeHouse Wildlife Center  
1825 Fosterburg Road  
Brighton, Il. 62012**